

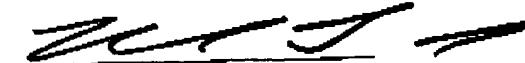
PATENT

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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 571-273-8300 on the date shown below to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 5-25-06  
Himanshu S. Amin

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): George D. Blankenship *et al.*

Examiner: Naeem U. Haq

Serial No: 09/838,970

Art Unit: 3625

Filing Date: April 20, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING WELDING CONSUMABLES

**Mail Stop AF**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

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REPLY TO ADVISORY ACTION DATED MAY 9, 2006

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Dear Sir:

Applicants' representative submits this Reply to Advisory Action dated May 9, 2006, together with a Notice of Appeal. A credit card payment form is filed concurrently herewith in connection with all fees due regarding this document and the Notice of Appeal. In the event any additional fees may be due and/or are not covered by the credit card, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [LINCP105US].